

Phone: 608/266-1714

E-Mail: treasury@ost.state.wi.us

Fax: 608/266-2647

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7871 Madison, WI 53707-7871

Wednesday, December 3, 2008 For Immediate Release

Contact: Christine Lee, State Treasurer's Office, 608-266-3712

Additional Eight Million Dollars Returned to the Public Second annual Unclaimed Property outreach tour completed

State Treasurer Dawn Marie Sass completed her second annual Unclaimed Property outreach tour on Tuesday, December 2nd at the UAW Local 95 Union Hall in Janesville. The 2008 Unclaimed Property outreach tour resulted in more than \$25.5 million and 260,000 shares of stock returned to the citizens of Wisconsin. Since Treasurer Sass began the outreach tour to raise awareness, an additional \$8 million has been reunited with the rightful owner.

"By visiting each county, I've had the opportunity to speak directly to Wisconsin citizens and build awareness of the services of the State Treasury," said Treasurer Sass. "The people of Wisconsin should be aware of the programs that are designed to be of assistance and that my office is dedicated to reuniting people with their lost assets. I am pleased to have completed this 72 county tour in Janesville, a community well known for its vital and dedicated workforce."

The 2008 outreach tour comprised of stops at county fairs, county courthouses, various speaking engagements, and other public events resulting in tens of thousands of unclaimed property claims. The outreach efforts have directly contributed to the Unclaimed Property Department paying out record amounts for 4 months in 2008. In May, the Unclaimed Property Department paid out \$3,164,022 from 1,980 claims. It was the largest value of claims in the history of the Unclaimed Property department since its inception in 1970.

Under Wisconsin law, after one to five years of inactivity Wisconsin businesses are mandated to turn all unclaimed money, stock and safe deposit boxes to the State Treasurer's office for safekeeping. There is **NO** time limit for collecting your unclaimed property. Currently, the State Treasurer's office has approximately \$320 million dollars and \$19 million in stock assets that belong to the citizens and businesses of Wisconsin. There are roughly 1 million people in the state who are owed Unclaimed Property.

To find out if you have any unclaimed property, go to www.statetreasury.wisconsin.gov.